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(71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): **SECURENCY PTY LIMITED** [AU/AU]; Hume Highway, Craigieburn, VIC 3084 (AU).

(72) Inventors; and

(75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): **POWER, Gary, Fairless** [GB/AU]; 46 Drummond Street, Greenvale,

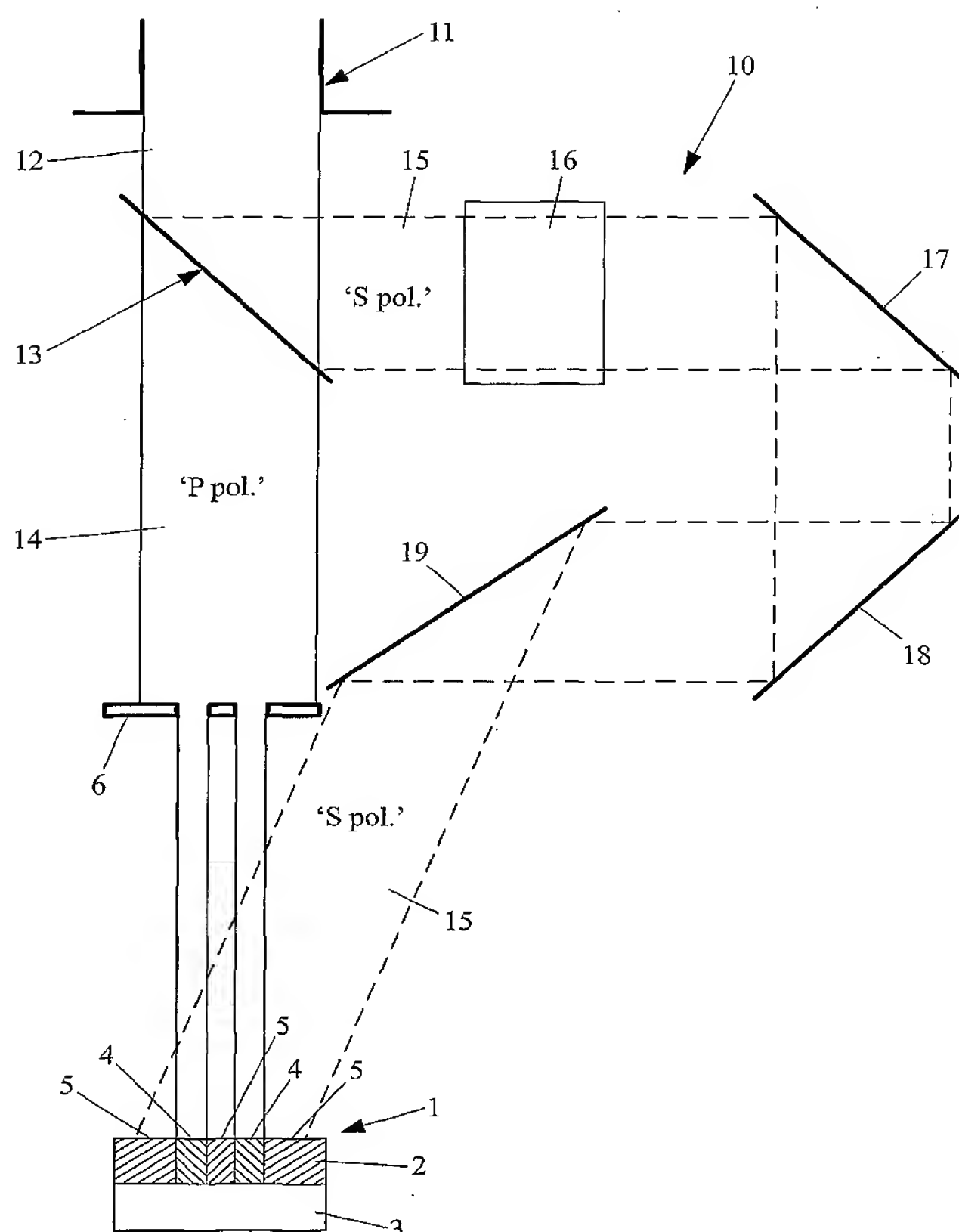
VIC 3059 (AU). **HENSON, Paul** [AU/AU]; 26 Dewdale Place, Craigieburn VIC 3064 (AU). **GRACE, John** [AU/AU]; 16 Ross Street, Newport Beach, NSW 2016 (AU). **ANDREW, Roderick** [BE/FR]; 1, Chemin de la Noire Femme, F-59570 Taisnieres s/Hon (FR).

(74) Agent: **WATERMARK PATENT & TRADEMARK ATTORNEYS**; 290 Burwood Road, Hawthorn, VIC 3122 (AU).

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(54) Title: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR MANUFACTURING AN OPTICAL COMPONENT



(57) Abstract: A method and apparatus (10) for manufacturing an optical component (1) having at least one photo-orientable polymeric layer is provided. The apparatus includes a single source of laser radiation (11), beam splitting means (13) for splitting the laser radiation into a first beam (14) of linearly polarized light having a first plane of polarisation (P polarisation) and a second beam (15) of linearly polarized light having a second plane of polarisation (S polarisation), first directing means for directing the first beam of linearly polarized light onto a first area or areas of at least one photo-orientable polymeric layer to cause a first molecular orientation in said first area or areas of the layer and second directing means for directing the second beam of linearly polarized light onto said photo-orientable polymeric layer to cause a second molecular orientation in a second area or areas of the layer. The apparatus includes delay means (17, 18, 19) for the second beam (15) of linearly polarized light so that the second beam arrives at the photo-orientable polymeric layer a predetermined delay time after the first beam of linearly polarized light.



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